

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
July 6, 2011

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (81/90)
Michael Brown (1/1)
Maria Greenberg (18/20)
Lou Spacco (14/15)
John Hitzel (14/15)
Fred Pazona (6/7)
Katherine Ariens (5/5)

Present

William Dryburgh
Michael Brown
Maria Greenberg
Lou Spacco
John Hitzel
Fred Pazona
Katherine Ariens

County Representatives

John Jackson, Director
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

Guest

Nancy Prafke
Douglas Tucker
Bruce Ziegelbauer

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Chairman Dryburgh welcomed our new member, Michael Brown. Michael stated he is 65 yrs. old, is retired from Caterpillar Tractor, his wife is a retired school teacher from Illinois, is a member of the Section 20 Home Owners Association and lives in Deep Creek. He is also a member of several Charlotte County Advisory committees.

I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June 1, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. Division Reports

Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.

- John Hitzel – beach patrol first aid station (because of the small amount of incidents at Englewood Beach (3 last year) he doesn't see the need). Medical Arts District and McGuire Park. The Director explained about the plan for three parks in the district and costs involved. Discussion ensued.
- Fred Pazona questioned the cost of the beach patrol station

III. New Business

• **Team Punta Gorda Loaned Bicycle Program, Nancy Prafke**

- The Director introduced Nancy and mentioned that he was interviewed by Nancy on the WENG radio show this morning.
- Nancy explained the Team Punta Gorda Loaned Bicycle Program which started a year ago in Punta Gorda. Now there five locations set-up to loan the (adult) bicycles. Team Punta Gorda manages the program; they received donations to purchase the bikes; there is city involvement but they cannot add money or buy the bicycles. They do provide the liability. Everyone loves the program and Punta Gorda is the only city currently in Florida to have this program. Receiving requests from people in Charlotte Harbor; grant from the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program sponsored the brochure. Charlotte Harbor CRA Gateway Park Project will possibly include bicycle access on the boardwalk.
- Nancy's purpose in presenting to this board is to inform them about the program and to relay that she is getting requests from outside of Punta Gorda. Donors would be needed to further the program and business locations would need to be identified to house the program. Training would be also needed.
- Bicycles are allowed on sidewalks and you are considered a pedestrian; if you are on

the street, you are considered a vehicle and must follow all rules of the road. A new law states that if there is a bike pathway, you must ride in the pathway.

- The Director suggested we need an education process for the public to inform them of bicycle safety and will ask for a legal review regarding the Sheriff and his staff informing the public of the bicycle safety rules.

IV. Old Business

- **Dogs in the Parks**
 - Example of a flyer was presented
 - Moving ahead with marking trails; expect to go live in August
- **Designated Smoking areas in Parks**
 - Working with legal to change the wording of the existing ordinance to include non-smoking areas and designated smoking areas.
- **RFP for sports Park Management**
 - Still in negotiations; there are issues

V. Sports Council Update

- Youth Sports Council next meeting set for July 13th at 6:30 p.m. at Mid-County Library
 - Maria Greenberg stated it is a good meeting and she will attend next week.

VI. Member Issues

- John Hitzel talked about the Gateway Park and feels it would be useful to plan for the bicycle loan program in that area which would make it a destination to ride over the bridge; he would prefer to charge for the program.
- The Chair mentioned that there is no place to go when over the bridge into Port Charlotte.
- The Director talked about the Charlotte Harbor CRA area; positive things are going to happen there and will develop when pre-conceived notions are changed.
- Fred talked about the Sports Park area being a good place to have the bicycle loan program; there are already sidewalks in the area. He was happy to see the no-smoking signs on the front of the library.
- Maria mentioned she will miss the next meeting; she will be in Texas.
- Catherine stated that she is excited about the dog walks in parks and our progress on smoke-free parks and at the beaches.
- Chair Dryburgh talked about the proclamation they accepted last week. He also expressed concern that next year five out of seven board member terms will expire; he will talk to Commission Starr about staggering these terms.

VII. Director's Report

- Updates
 - John Jackson gave updates on the Pizza Pool Party; Super Mini Sports for children 3-5 years educates the child and the parents on the basics of the sports.
 - Community Healthy Living Initiative (CHLI), working with the YMCA; a triathlon is scheduled for April 2012
 - Community Garden is moving ahead well; possible opening in the fall of this year
 - Program successes last month: Fishing Club, Big Surf Contest, Father-Daughter Dance; proud of staff who worked hard on these events
 - Smoking on the beaches will be an uphill battle; we have been contacted by a company to rake the beach and he will rake for two consecutive weeks after turtle season is over; photographs of the cigarette butt waste will be taken to document the amount of waste.
 - Englewood Beach is experiencing problems with teens fighting, loitering, spitting, and harassment. Working with the Sherriff on this problem. Two seasonal employees will monitor next year's season and summer.

- Harold Avenue Park had two basketball courts; problems ensued and three backboards were taken down and will be down for a few months.
- Sexual assault at South County Regional Park was discussed.

VIII. Citizen Input

- Bruce Ziegelbauer spoke about fees to rent the fields for the Elks' tournament (\$1,800) and asked for the fees waived because all proceeds go to charity. They made \$25,000 last year.
 - Catherine suggested holding back fees from the previous year to pay these fees going forward or paying in arrears.
 - This board does not have the authority to waive fees; the board would not be in favor of making a recommendation to the Commission to waive these fees.

IX. Announcements

- None

X. Upcoming Events

- Events as listed on the Agenda

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2:17 p.m.

CC: Commissioner Robert Skidmore, District 1
Commissioner Chris Constance, District 2
Commissioner Robert Starr, District 3
Commissioner Stephen Deutsch, District 4
Commissioner Tricia Duffy, District 5
Raymond Sandrock, Administrator
Kelly Shoemaker, Assistant County Administrator